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Department of State TELEGRAM

CONFIDENTIAL 016

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ACTION EA-20

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-08 NSAE-00 P-03 RSC-01

USIA-12 PRS-01 SS-20 NSC-10 AID-28 RSR-01 /105 W
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R 050450Z AUG 71
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE 8239
INFO USDEL FRANCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 12403

SUBJECT: ELECTION OBSERVERS.

REF : A. SAIGON 9898
B. SAIGON 9491
C. SAIGON 12273

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY Joan Izzberg DATE 1/26/82
RDS☐or XD☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXIST MARKING ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

1. DEPFONMIN PHUONG INFORMED US TUESDAY, AUG 3, THAT GVN HAD DECIDED NOT RPT NOT TO ISSUE OFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS TO SEND ELECTION OBSERVERS. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION AUG 1, FONMIN LAM HAD TOLD AMBASSADOR REASON FOR THIS DECISION WAS THAT OFFICIAL INVITATION WOULD IMPLY GVN READINESS TO PAY AT LEAST IN-COUNTRY EXPENSES THESE OBSERVERS, AND IT COULD NOT AFFORD TO DO SO.

2. ACCORDING TO PHUONG, IF US WANTED TO SEND AN OFFICIAL DELEGATION OF OBSERVERS FOR ELECTIONS IT WOULD BE WELCOME; SO WOULD ANY OTHER GENUINE OBSERVERS WHO CAME ON THEIR OWN. THE SPECIAL INFORMATION CENTER (REFS B AND C) THE GVN IS ESTABLISHING IN DOWNTOWN SAIGON WILL PROVIDE INFORMATION AND ASSIST OBSERVERS IN MAKING RESERVATIONS, ARRANGING TRAVEL, REQUESTING APPOINTMENTS, ETC. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT GVN MEANS WERE LIMITED AND AS MOST OBSERVERS WERE EXPECTED TO BE AMERICANS, SOME WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY END UP AT AMERICAN EMBASSY.
BUNKER

(2)